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A N N U A L   R E P O R T

for 1955

to the

E V E S H A M   B O R O U G H   C O U N C I L

by

J. J. MURRAY, M.B., D.P.H.

(District Medical Officer of Health)





BOROUGH OF EVESHAM.

Public Health Staff.

Medical Officer of Health: J. J. Murray, M.B., D.P.H.

Senior Sanitary Inspector: E. C. Melton, M.S.I.A., A.R.San.I.,

Additional Sanitary Inspector: D. L. Evans, M.S.I.A., A.R.San.I.

Committees Concerned with Public Health Matters.

Public Health Committee: Chairman - Councillor Masters.

Housing Committee: Chairman - Councillor Andrews.

General Statistics.

Area in acres	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,958
Population, Registrar-General's Estimate mid-1955	...						...	12,140
Number of inhabited houses at 1st April, 1955	...					...	...	3,630
Rateable value at 1st April, 1955	...	...	...			...	...	£95,592
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...			...	...	£379



# REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1955.

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

I beg to present the Annual Report on the health of your District for the year 1955:-

## VITAL STATISTICS.

<u>BIRTHS:</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>1954.</u>
Legitimate	83	85	168	
Illegitimate	4	4	8	
	87	89	176	192
<u>STILL BIRTHS:</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	
Legitimate	1	-	1	
Illegitimate	-	-	-	
	1	-	-	8
Birth-rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population	-	14.5		15.9
Still birth-rate per 1,000 total (live & still) births	-	5.6		40.0
<u>DEATHS:</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	
	74	72	146	130
Death-rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population	-	12.0		10.7
Deaths from pregnancy and childbirth		1		Nil
Maternal death-rate per 1,000 total (live & still) births-		5.6		Nil
	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	
Deaths of infants under one year	4	3	7	2
Deaths of legitimate infants	4	3	7	2
Deaths of illegitimate infants	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
<u>DEATH RATES OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR:</u>				
All infants per 1,000 live births	-	39.8		10.4
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	-	41.5		10.9
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	-	Nil		Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	-	23		20
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	-	Nil		Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	-	Nil		Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	-	Nil		Nil

Comparison with some of the figures for the whole country is as follows:-

	<u>England &amp; Wales.</u>	<u>District.</u>	<u>District.</u>
	<u>1955.</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>1954.</u>
Birth-rate	15.0	14.5	15.9
Death-rate	11.7	12.0	10.7
Infant Mortality rate	24.9	39.8	10.4



CAUSES OF DEATH TABLE FOR 1955.

<u>Causes of Death.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
1. T.B. of respiratory system.	3	-	3
2. Other forms of T.B.	-	-	-
3. Syphilitic diseases	-	-	-
4. Diphtheria	-	-	-
5. Whooping Cough	-	-	-
6. Meningococcal Infections	-	-	-
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
8. Measles	-	-	-
9. Other infective and para. dis.	-	-	-
10. Cancer of Stomach	1	1	2
11. Cancer of Lungs	4	-	4
12. Cancer of Breast	-	2	2
13. Cancer of Uterus	-	6	6
14. Cancer - Lymph. and other types	3	6	9
Cancer Total.	8	15	23
15. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	1	-	1
16. Diabetes	1	-	1
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	10	11	21
18. Coronary Dis., Angina	8	3	11
19. Hypertension with heart dis.	3	1	4
20. Other heart dis.	15	19	34
21. Other circulatory dis.	1	3	4
22. Influenza	-	-	-
23. Pneumonia	1	2	3
24. Bronchitis	8	4	12
25. Other dis. of resp. system	-	-	-
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	-	1
27. Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	1	1	2
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis	-	-	-
29. Hyperplasia of Prostate	-	-	-
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	1	1
31. Congenital malformations	-	-	-
32. Other defined and ill-defined dis.	8	9	17
33. Motor vehicle accidents	3	1	4
34. Other accidental causes	1	2	3
35. Suicide	-	-	-
36. Other violent causes	1	-	1
TOTAL:	74	72	146





## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

The Regional Hospital Board arrangements for the treatment of infectious diseases and the ambulance system have both worked smoothly and satisfactorily.

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

### WATER SUPPLIES.

The quality of the town water supply continues to be quite satisfactory.

Water was taken from an additional source in the Middle Hill Area (Broadway) to supplement the supply from the Broadway springs and the permitted abstraction from the Pinnock Springs. Owing to the low rainfall during the past four years the yield of the springs has gradually decreased and it was necessary to issue a press notice in October 1955 urging the need for economy in the use of water. This was effective and it was possible to maintain supplies without recourse to turning off the water.

Twelve samples of water from the town supply were submitted to bacteriological examination and eleven to chemical analysis with satisfactory results.

In addition, nineteen samples of raw water at the source of supply were submitted for examination and of these, eighteen were satisfactory and one was unsatisfactory. Later samples proved satisfactory.

The town water has a very slight action on lead but the County Analyst reports that the amount of metal likely to be dissolved under ordinary circumstances would be harmless.

Approximately 3,630 houses in the Borough are supplied by piped water.

### SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

During the year a contract for the construction of a new sewage disposal works for the Borough was commenced and work on the project is progressing satisfactorily.

Every endeavour has been made to keep the existing sewage works in a satisfactory condition but a good effluent cannot be produced due to the inability of the works to deal adequately with the volume of sewage being delivered for treatment.

Plans, quantities, etc., are in course of preparation for the new low level pumping station at the existing sewage works at Abbey Road and it is anticipated that work will be commenced in 1956.



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### HOUSING.

A further 33 dwellings were completed during the year on the Council's Fairfield Housing Estate making a total of 560 dwellings built by the Council in the Borough since the war, as follows:-

Traditional Houses	...	...	...	...	391
Maisonettes	...	...	...	...	66
Permanent Prefabricated Houses	...	...	...	...	74
Temporary Prefabricated Houses	...	...	...	...	29
					<hr/>
					560
					<hr/>

In addition, 29 houses were completed under private enterprise during 1955.

### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Inspection of premises under the Food & Drugs Act continued to be carried out by the Sanitary Inspector and his assistant.

Meat inspection was carried out at the local bacon factory and slaughterhouse where all carcasses and offal were examined. Whenever possible ante-mortem inspection was also carried out. Approximately 60% of the Inspector's time is taken up with this work.

### RECORD OF INSPECTION AND CONDEMNATION.

	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed	1,352	66	364	4,684	36,739
Number inspected	1,352	66	364	4,684	36,739
<u>All diseases except T.B.:</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	2	2	3	6	18
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	272	17	2	115	631
Approximate percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than T.B.	22.7%	28.8%	1.3%	2.6%	1.8%
<u>Tuberculosis only:</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	3	-	1	-	9
Carcasses of which some part or organ condemned.	48	16	Nil	-	1117
Percentage of the number inspected affected with T.B.	3.8%	24.2%	.3%	-	3.1%



Amongst the chief causes of condemnation other than tuberculosis were, bruising, abscesses, cysts, parasitic infection, pneumonia, nephritis, necrotic and distoma livers, bone taint, decomposition.

The weight of meat condemned was approximately 26 tons. This was disposed of at the bacon factory digesting plant or stained and collected by bi-product manufacturers.

The following foodstuffs were found to be unfit and surrendered voluntarily:-

Canned Goods	1790
Bottles	49
Fish	288 lbs.
Rabbits	56 lbs.
Cheese	353 lbs.
Cereals	65 lbs.
Cooked Meats	14 lbs.
Confectionery	94 lbs.
Fruit	280 lbs.

#### MILK AND DAIRIES.

Number of Dairymen and purveyors - 4.

One of the above maintains a pasteurising plant and treats a substantial amount of the milk retailed in the district. No raw milk is sold. 41 samples were taken, all proving satisfactory.

#### FOOD SHOPS AND CAFES.

Grocers, greengrocers, sweet shops and mixed food trade.	86
Butchers	14
Bakers and Confectioners	8
Fried Fish Shops	4
Wet Fish Shops.	3
Cafes	21
Licensed premises (including clubs)	38

A total of 251 inspections of food shops were carried out and 19 notices requiring repairs, cleansing and other hygienic measures were complied with.

The general standard of these premises are regarded as satisfactory, but in a number of instances, it was necessary to make frequent visits to ensure the maintainance of a reasonable standard.





### ICE CREAM.

Numbers of manufacturers registered	-	1
Numbers of premises registered for sale	-	56.

Twenty-five samples were taken which proved satisfactory. The sole manufacturer discontinued production during the year and at present only well known brands of ice cream are retailed.

### MANUFACTURE OF SAUSAGE, POTTED, PRESSED, PICKLED AND PRESERVED FOODS.

Eight premises are registered for these purposes in the Borough including two large factories which produce sausage, pies and cooked meats. Numerous visits of inspection were made to ensure that the foodstuff was handled hygienically. The general condition under which these foodstuffs are handled and produced can be regarded as satisfactory. Samples of the products such as sausages and pies were taken on occasions and these proved to be reasonably good.

### CAMPING SITES.

Six site licences are now in operation and four individual caravans are licensed.

The six sites accommodate about 240 caravans during the holiday season and approximately 50 caravans and chalets on three of the sites are in permanent occupation.

All sites are reasonably well maintained and with regular surveillance no acute public health problems have arisen.

### SWIMMING BATHS.

The public open-air swimming bath at Common Road is municipally owned. Water is derived from the town mains and continuous break-point chlorination and filtration ensures purity. Daily tests for the efficiency of chlorination proved satisfactory.





FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 & 1948.

PART I OF THE ACT.

1. Inspections for the purposes of provisions as to health:-

Premises.	Number on Register.	Number of		
		Inspect- ions	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted.
(1) Factories in which Sec. 1, 2, 3, 4, & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	10	4	-	-
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	97	45	2	-
(3) Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excl'dg. outworkers' premises.)	2	4	-	-
TOTAL:	109	53	2	-

2. Cases in which defects were found:-

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found.				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Insp.	by H.M. Insp.	
Want of cleanliness	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors.	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Sanitary Conveniences:</u>					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	6	5	-	2	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act.	2	2	-	2	-
	8	7	-	4	-

PART VIII OF THE ACT - OUTWORK.

During the year 3 outworkers were employed in the Borough on glove making and 24 in the manufacture of spectacle cases. Working conditions were found to be quite satisfactory. (8).



PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Notified diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year, 1955:-

<u>Disease.</u>	<u>Total Cases notified.</u>	<u>Admitted to hospital.</u>	<u>Total deaths.</u>
Scarlet Fever. ... ..	7	-	-
Diphtheria ... ..	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infection ...	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	-	-	-
Pneumonia ... ..	-	-	-
Dysentery ... ..	4	-	-
Measles ... ..	415	-	-
Whooping Cough ... ..	42	-	-
Erysipelas ... ..	1	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis (non para)...	2	2	-
Acute Encephalitis ... ..	-	-	-
Food Poisoning ... ..	5	1	-
Paratyphoid ... ..	1	1	-
	477	4	Nil

ANALYSIS OF TOTAL NOTIFIED INFECTIOUS DISEASES  
CASES (other than Tuberculosis) DURING THE  
YEAR 1955.

	Scarlet Fever	Dysentery	Measles	Whooping Cough	Erysipelas	Acute Polio. (Non Para)	Paratyphoid	Food Poisoning	Total
Under 1 year .. ..	-	-	10	2	-	-	-	-	12
1 - 2 years .. ..	-	1	89	13	-	-	-	-	103
3 - 4 years .. ..	2	-	102	11	-	-	-	-	115
5 - 10 years .. ..	5	2	206	16	-	-	-	1	230
11 - 15 years .. ..	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	3
16 - 20 years .. ..	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	2
21 - 35 years .. ..	-	1	1	-	-	2	-	-	4
36 - 45 years .. ..	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	3
46 - 65 years .. ..	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	3	4
66 and over .. ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
	7	4	415	42	1	2	1	5	477

SCARLET FEVER.

Seven cases of Scarlet Fever were notified as compared with one in the previous year. All cases recovered.

DIPHTHERIA.

No cases of diphtheria were reported during the year. It is ten years since a ~~confirmed~~ case of diphtheria was notified.

*confirmed*



### WHOOPIING COUGH AND MEASLES.

Forty two cases of whooping cough were notified during the year as compared with twelve in 1954.

An outbreak of Measles occurred during the first half of the year, 411 of the 415 cases being notified before the end of June. Children in the 5 - 10 age group were most affected.

There were no deaths from either disease.

### POLIOMYELITIS.

Two cases of Poliomyelitis were notified in September, both being of the non-paralytic type.

Both cases made satisfactory recoveries.

### PARATYPHOID.

The case was that of an elderly woman who was removed to hospital. No source of infection could be discovered and no further cases occurred.

### FOOD POISONING.

During July and August five cases of food poisoning were reported. Suspected foodstuffs on bacteriological examination yielded negative results. All cases made satisfactory recoveries.

### DYSENTERY.

Four cases of sonné dysentery were notified and all recovered.

### DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

During the year immunisation of children against diphtheria has been continued and a total of 183 children were immunised as follows:-

0 - 4 (inc.)  
151

5 - 14 (inc.)  
32

These figures include immunisations carried out by private practitioners.

During the year 151 boosting injections were also given to four and five year old children.

Since 1940 to the end of 1955 a total of 4,125 children in the Borough have been immunised against diphtheria.

### VACCINATION.

Fifty infants were vaccinated against Smallpox during the year.

### SCHOOL CLOSURE.

No school closure was necessitated by infectious disease during 1955.



### TUBERCULOSIS.

The following table gives particulars of the 10 new cases of Tuberculosis (as against 12 in 1954), and of all deaths from the disease in the Borough during 1955:-

<u>Age Groups.</u>	<u>NEW CASES.</u>				<u>DEATHS.</u>			
	<u>Pulmonary.</u>		<u>Non-pulm.</u>		<u>Pulmonary.</u>		<u>Non-pulm.</u>	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 4 years ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 14 years ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 24 years ...	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 34 years ...	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 44 years ...	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 54 years ...	2	-	-	-	3	-	-	-
55 - 64 years ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and over ...	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
	7	3	-	-	4	-	-	-

Number of deaths from non-notified Tuberculosis	-	Nil	<u>1954</u> 1
Total number of Tuberculosis deaths	-	4	4

### MASS RADIOGRAPHY.

The unit visited Evesham and District from 5th July to 27th July, 1955.

In the Borough of Evesham a total of 1,189 persons were X-Rayed, made up as follows:-

Organised visits from factories, etc.,	144
Scholars	171
Avonside Hospital	85
Members of the public	789
	<u>1,189</u>

This compares with 11,080 persons who were X-Rayed in 1954.

No cases of tuberculosis were discovered.

The unit will visit Evesham again in 1956.

### SUMMARY.

The birth rate has shown a decrease from 1954 and is lower than the current national rate, 16 fewer births being registered in 1955 than 1954.

The death rate of 12.0 shows an increase on 1954, 16 more deaths being registered. Of the total deaths 106 were of persons aged 65 years and over (approximately 72.1%).

There were 7 infant deaths this year as against 2 in 1954, the infant mortality rate as a consequence has risen sharply.







The notifications and deaths from Tuberculosis show little appreciable change.

The health of the district can be adjudged (on the foregoing figures) as being reasonably satisfactory.

I am much indebted to the Sanitary Inspector and his staff for their assistance during the year.

I am, Ladies & Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. J. MURRAY.

Medical Officer of Health.





